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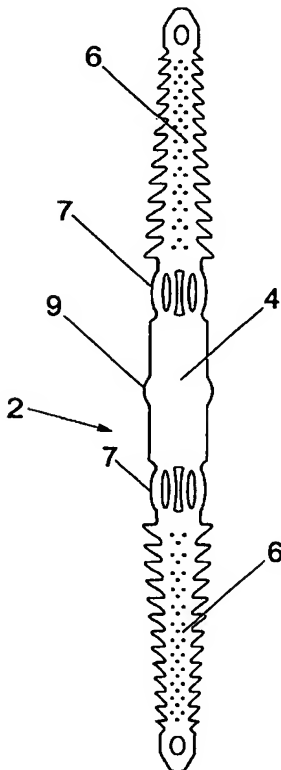
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TREATING FEMALE URINARY INCONTINENCE

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a surgical implant (2) and method for supporting the urethra, the implant comprising: comprising at least one fixing zone (6) that can be fixed in the fibrofatty tissue of the retropubic space. In use the implant supports the urethra such that increased intra-abdominal pressure is transmitted to the sub urethral pressure space to promote occlusion of the urethra at periods of increased intra-abdominal pressure. The implant of the present invention has uses including treating urinary incontinence and uterovaginal prolapse.



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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 03 002027 A (FIERRO EDUARDO ; PROMEDON (FR)) 9 January 2003 (2003-01-09) page 11, line 6 - page 12, line 19; figures 1, 2	1, 3-5, 8-10, 12, 14-18, 24
X	page 13, line 19-27	27, 28
X	EP 0 248 544 A (NAT RES DEV) 9 December 1987 (1987-12-09)	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
Y	column 3, line 23 - line 46 column 4, line 32 - line 36	18, 21, 22
P, X	WO 02 078571 A (AMS RES CORP) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) paragraph '0123!	1, 3, 4, 6
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *Z* document member of the same patent family

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	EP 0 632 999 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP) 11 January 1995 (1995-01-11) column 6, line 21 - line 30; figures 1,3 -----	2,4,5,8, 9
Y	US 6 042 534 A (GELLMAN BARRY N ET AL) 28 March 2000 (2000-03-28) column 7, line 24 - line 32 column 13, line 12 - line 27 -----	18,21,22
P,X	WO 02 30293 A (BROWNING JAMES ;GYNE IDEAS LTD (GB)) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18) page 25, line 7 - line 27; figure 15 -----	27,30
X	WO 00 74633 A (ETHICON INC) 14 December 2000 (2000-12-14) page 13, paragraph 4; figures 3F,3G -----	27-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. application No.
PCT/GB 03/01573

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 25, 26, 32-35
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-24

A surgical implant for supporting the urethra.

2. Claims: 27-31

A tool for inserting an implant.

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